MASON'S

Coin Collectors' HERALD

VOL. II. DECEMBER, 1880. No. 3.

HISTORY OF U. S. COINAGE.

—AND—

Laws relating to Coins and Coinage, from 1792 until 1880.

BY AN OLD MERCHANT.

I.

THE ACT OF APRIL 2, 1792.

This act provides for a United States Mint, and for the coinage of United States coins.

GOLD COINS.

1. THE EAGLE, of the value of $10 or units, containing each 247½ grains pure gold and 270 grains standard gold. Alloy in the eagle, 22½ grains.

2. THE HALF-EAGLE, of the value of $5, containing 123¾ grains pure gold and 135 grains standard gold. Alloy in the half-eagle, 11¼ grains.

3. THE QUARTER-EAGLE, of the value of $2.50, containing 61⅞ grains pure gold and 67½ grains standard gold. Alloy in the quarter-eagle, 5⅝ grains.

These were the only gold coins to be issued from the Mint under the law of 1792. The gold dollar and double-eagle were not authorized till 1849.

SILVER COINS.

1. DOLLARS OR UNITS.

Each dollar or unit was to be of the value of 100 cents, and to contain the same amount of pure silver as the current Spanish dollar. This dollar was made by the law of 1792 to contain 371¼ grains pure silver, and standard silver 416 grains, the alloy therein being 44¾ grains.

2. HALF-DOLLARS.

The half-dollar was made to contain 185⅝ grains pure silver and 22¾ grains alloy, making a half-dollar 208 grains standard silver.

4. QUARTER-DOLLARS.

The quarter-dollars contained one-fourth the silver and alloy of the dollar, and one-half the quantity of the half-dollar.

4. DIMES.

Dimes contain one-tenth of the dollar or unit in silver and alloy.

5. CENTS AND HALF-CENTS.

Cents are hundredth parts of a dollar or unit, and half-cents, one-half that sum.

Mills, of which there is no coin provided, are the thousandth parts of a dollar.

Cents and half-cents were then coined of all copper; each cent contained 11 pennyweights of copper; half-cents, 5½ pennyweights.

These are the only coins of the United States authorized by this act They were all full legal tender.

6. SECTION ELEVEN.—This section of the act of 1792 provided that the legal relation of gold and silver in the United States should be 15 pounds of silver to one pound of gold.

The legal relations of these two metals in Great Britain, France, and most countries in Europe was then, and is now, 15½ pounds of silver to one pound of gold. Gold measured by silver as the standard was worth in silver a half-pound more in the 15½ pounds in Europe than in the United States under this law of 1792. Consequently the silver came to the United States, and was invested in gold, because the 15 pounds of it exchanged for one pound of gold would purchase in Europe 15½ pounds of silver instead of 15 pounds.

Silver was not overvalued, but gold was undervalued by this law. The language of the law is: "The comparative value of gold and silver, *when used as money*, according to the quantity of pure gold and silver therein according to weight, shall be 1 to 15."

7. THE TWELTH SECTION.—The 12th section of this act alloys gold the same as England then did, and now does. The pure metal is 11 parts and the alloy 1 part, being 1 in 12 parts.

The alloy of gold under the law of 1792 was copper and silver, with not more than one-half the alloy silver, the quantity of silver used in alloying gold to be left to the discretion of the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the President of the United States.

The alloy of gold with silver is now reduced by law to one-tenth of the alloy, and it is left to the discretion of the Director of the Mint whether to use any silver in the alloy of gold. None is used in most countries in Europe.

(*To be continued.*)

REMINISCENCES OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. MASON., JR.

ABRUPT entrance of a fine looking elderly gentleman. The coin dealer is complacently reading the last *Numisma*. The long tailed, rose ring, Madras parrot is gazing intelligently from his perch on the cast-iron penholder, evidently wondering at the display of coins spread out on the table before him. The elderly gentlemen gazes alternately at the coins, the coin dealer, and finally fixing his eyes on the parrot, takes a seat.

Gent.—(pointing to parrot,) "Bite?"

Dealer.—"Oh, no; perfectly tame."

G—"I want one of your coin catalogues showing prices you pay for coins."

D.—(handing the gent a book.) This is the catalogue—25c if you please."

G.—(astonished,) "What, twenty five cents?"

D.—"Certainly; or if you prefer we will buy your coins without reference to the book prices, and then present you with a copy."

G.—(showing a handful of small silver coins.) "Let me see what you pay for these"

D.—"Hardly fair, to get the information regarding prices for nothing. Do you know, sir, that this catalogue costs money to print, and gives all the rare dates of coins, with prices?"

G.—"Yes; but it is your business to furnish price catalogues free to the public, or they cannot know at what price to sell their coins."

D.—"Are you a business man?"

G.—"Yes sir; keep a country store."

D.—"Do you issue a price list showing what you pay for groceries, clothing, &c.?"

G.—"Guess not."

D.—"Why?"

G.—"Because we do not want our customers to know what we pay."

D.—"Exactly; and there is where we stand. We prefer to buy coins as cheap as we can, and if parties handling coins want to know their value we propose to sell that information for 25c.

G.—"Your only object is to sell the book, and not buy the coins."

D.—"Wrong again. We will give you 25c. for every piece we pick out of the dimes and half-dimes you have."

G.—"All right (turning on to the dealer's table a handful of dimes and half dimes.) Pick out what you want and pay me twenty-five cents a piece, that's business."

D.—(running his eyes over the dates, recognizes a very good 1796 half dime, and taking it out, returns the balance of lot to owner. —"Here, sir, is a quarter dollar for a half dime I have selected."

G.—"Is that all you want? (anxiously looking at the 1796 half dime, laying on the table.) What date is that?"

D.—"1796."

G.—"Did I have one that old?"

D.—"You did."

G.—(examining the coin) "Why, I thought that was a foreign piece; I took it over the counter for five cents."

D.—"And we took it over the counter for 25c."

G.—"Ya'as; but what does your book offer for such coins?"

D.—"One dollar, sir."

G.—"Then you owe me seventy-five cents."

D.—"No sir; we agreed to give you 25c."

G —"And your book says one dollar?"

D.—"Yes, sir."

G.—"Well give us a book (throws down a quarter) Will you give the prices in this book?"

D.—"Certainly."

G.—"The book only cost me five cents, anyway."

D.—"And the lesson on coins 75c."

G. —(passing out) "I'll know better next time Exit.)

SALE OF THE SMITH CABINET.

Oct. 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21.

When Tuesday, October 5th arrived, and the hour approached for the sale of coins known as "the Smith Cabinet," at Bangs & Co's, 739 Broadway, New York, we looked curiously and thinkingly around the spacious room at the different faces of the attendent buyers and bidders, and our thoughts reverted to the past. Tis true we recognised a number of the "old timers;" there was Sampson, Mason, (Geo, B.,) Betts, Balmano, Smith, ("Clay,") Scott, Hazeltine's representative, "Frank," Blasy, Chapman, Randall, and many others whose faces where unknown to us; but where was Cogan, Levick, Anthon, Parmelee, Elliot, Nichols, McCoy, Peffendorf, Farrier, Canfield, Haines, Hill, Maris, Mc Koon, McComb, Mercur, Poillon, Thatcher, Wells, Ahlborn, Crosby, Brown, Fewsmith. Fay and many others we might mention? Cogan, the life of all sales, whose vivacity made sales enjoyable, was sadly missed. How times have changed! When we think of the Cogan sale in the old Dilligent Hose House, 10th and Filbert, this city in 1859, and remember the well known faces present, and then think of the sale of October 5th, we are lost in thought. Mickley, Breichman, Martin and others have passed away, while Davis, Levick, Warner, Heineman, Hoffman, Kline, Idler, Fewsmith, Cogan, Jenks, Taylor. Dickeson, Mason, (the writer) present on that occasion, "still live" to note the wonderful changes twenty one years have wrought in coins and coin collectors. But we must cut this channel of thought to find room for a few items concerning the "Smith Cabinet" sale. The attendance was equal to previous sales and the bidding spirited. The 1st day's sale realized $1,090.00, the 2d about $600, the 3rd about $200; or a total of nearly $2,000.00. Part II, $1,000.00. Some of the pieces realising ten dollars and upwards were, as follows: .

1858	U. S. proof set	$42.00
1853	California Double Eagle	26.00
	Dom Pedro gold Medal	11.00
1794	Cent starred Variety)	23.00
1794	" (Venus) uncirculated	10.00

1794	U. S. Dollar	45.00
1838	" " "	38.00
1839	" " "	35.50
1851	" " "	34.00
1852	" " "	39.00
1857	" " "	11.00
1796	" " Half Dollar	38.50
1797	" " " "	34.00
1815	" " " "	14.00
1792	Washington, Half Dollar, copper	12.00
1792	Silver "Half Disme"	14 25
1790	Baltimore Town Piece,	16.50
1804	Dime	24.00
1796	Half Cent	20.50
	Jewish Shekel	16.00
	" Half Shekel	18.50
1802	Half Dime	95.00
1805	" "	24.00

The above is a pretty good exhibit when we consider that the pieces were not generally in extra fine condition. Another point on the credit side of the sales is that a majority of the rare coins &c, realized a handsome profit over cost, especially in the reference to a goodly number of these pieces purchased of Mason & Co., by the owner.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GIFTS. CALIFORNIA GOLD COINS.

Having received a few beautiful specimens of these interesting little gold half and quarter dollars, we will mail, free of postage in proof condition

California gold half dollars for			.60
" " quarter dollars, for			.30
Two half dollars	1.15	Two quarters	.55
Three " "	1.55	Three "	.80
Six " "	3.00	Six "	1.55

Address, Mason & Co., 143 North 10th Street, Phila.

THE DIFFERENCE.

In Frossard's November issue of *Numisma*, he complains that we used a "superabundance of adjectives" in describing the coins in the sale of the "Smith Cabinet," and in perusing the catalogue of a coin sale by Frossard Sept. 28, we find the expression of conditions very tame indeed. We can only account for this difference by the fact that our sale with its numerous gems called for numerous adjectives to adequately describe their extraordinary rarity and beauty, while his sale was so common place in its character, it did not necesitate the use of adjectives at all.

1880 Halves, Quarters, Dimes.

Orders will be received up to Dec. 31, for these pieces, in uncirculated condition, at the following prices, viz. Halves 75cts. Quarters 35cts. Dimes 15cts. or $1.10 for the set. Adress this office.

Correspondents' Department.

REPLIES AND INFORMATION.

Washington, D. C.

Mr. E. Mason, Jr.

Dear Sir.—I should like to become a subscriber to your "Coin Collector's Herald," but should prefer to begin with the first Volume. If you can furnish the back numbers of the same, at a reasonable rate, and will forward them to me (C. O. D. or otherwise) along with the numbers that are now out, of the 2nd volume, you will very much oblige

Yours respectfully
J. WILEY AULICK.

If you have forgotten me Hazeltine or Chapman, I think, will vouch for my solvency.

Answer, "Forget you?" Guess not. We remember all the good patrons of years ago, and welcome each one with an *open palm* and a warm heart. Have sent you both volumes of *Herald*. Please send us a general description of your cabinet, and oblige many readers.

Editor.

Pittsburgh, October 9th, 1880.

Mess. Mason & Co.

Gentlemen.—About ten days ago I wrote you asking in which year the mint at New Orleans again commenced coining, 1878 or 1879; and what denominations had been coined. Supposing that you did not receive letter I again request the information.

Yours Very truly,
C. E. Wolff.

(Answer.—The New Orleans Mint resumed coinage in 1878, but thus far we have seen Bland dollars of 1879 and '80 only, bearing this mint mark. No smaller denominations were coined.—Editor.)

Baltimore, October 15th, 1880.

Mess. Mason & Co.

I enclose you $1.35, I am very much pleased with my 1793 Liberty Cap cent. What did the 1796 half dollar, lot 1011, fetch? I sold it to Boyd and he to Smith. I have some curiosity to know.

Yours Respectfully, &c.
G. W. M.

(Answer.—Lot 1011 fetched $38.50. Glad you are pleased with lots bought at Smith Sale.—Editor.)

Mess. Mason & Co.

Gent.—Will you send me your coin circular and a list of any old coins you have for sale. I am gathering a cabinet of old coins.

Very truly yours
G. L. D.

(Answer.—Sent you some odd back numbers. Cannot spare the recent numbers, laid aside for subscribers. Shall be happy to add your name to our book of subscribers.—Editor.)

Erving, Mass. Oct. 16th, 1880

Mr. Mason:—

Since receiving the 3 pence of Wm. and Mary dated 1689, in looking over my coin I find I have a coin of James the 2nd, dated 1690, one year later. I also find in refering to *Visitor* that James the 2nd only reigned from 1685 to 1689; now whence comes the coin, of 1690? My conjectures are then, the coin is of metal not copper but of the same material of the 5 and 10 cent of France. That it was coined in Ireland and that country being catholic, was the last to disown him. The last Battle being fought at the Boyn, 1690 &c. Am I right or not? Please excuse me for writing so much that is perhaps to you not intersting but to me it is very much so. If you will answer I will be very grateful to you for doing so. In the meantime.

Yours truly,
W. G. W.

(Answer.—Probably the crowns and half crowns in gun metal of James II 1690, were coined the year previous as at times the case with our own mints. Your rubbing of Shekel shows that the piece is only a copy. Your "Bar Cent" a struck copy in copper. Will remember your wants and try to supply them.—Editor.)

Afton, N. Y., October 28, 1880.

Mason & Co.

I have an 1853 Half Dollar that lacks the drapery seen in the ordinary variety, extending from the elbow of left arm to knee, you will see the difference by comparing an 1850 with a '54, to me it is a new variety.

Respectfully Yours,
M. J. H.

(Answer.—We know of but the two varieties with drapery, Phila. and Orleans Mints.—Editor.)

P. A., Manchester.—Sorry we missed you on our recent trip to New England. Sent you rubbing of rare 1849 Half Eagle.

T. T. B., Traverse City.—Have you forgotten old friends? Would be glad to hear from you, and description of your cabinet for sale. Are you entirely out of the market.

SIEGFRIED AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION.

This remarkable collection of autograph letters of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, and Generals of the Revolution was disposed of at a private bid sale on Saturday, Nov. 27 in this city. Abont twenty five bidders were represented and the sale was very satisfactory to the owner. The "Will" of George Taylor, one of the signers of the Declaration, was not sold, and is now offered for sale at $10. The "Will" is of remarkable interest as it provides liberally for two *families of children*; one of which was *wife* and the other *house keeper.*

EDITORIAL EXCURSIONS, No. VII.

On Oct. 31, we resumed our excursions through Penna, calling upon the two Millers at Reading, and obtaining some numismatic grist for our city mill; thence to Lebanon and Lancaster, passing a few moments pleasantly with collectors at the former place, and enjoying a hearty meal with C. S. a well known numismatist; whose antipathy to publicity compels us to print his initials only. Upon our return from Lancaster we stopped at Coatesville and West Chester and noted the increased interest prevailing at both towns. On November 9th, we made a week's visit to New England, exchanging compliments, cash and coins with Woodward, Ahlborn, Shayer, Evans, Sanborn, Moore, Murray, Williams, Daley, and Fessenden of Boston, East Boston, Chelsea and Lynn; visiting, while at the former city, Doctor Fogg and Judge Chamberlain, the distinguished autograph Collectors, and passed a pleasant hour in viewing the beautiful building, known as the "City Library." Here we saw system, convenience, and the grandest display of books, together with the handsomest gentlemen and ladies, it ever fell to our lot to see in a public institution of that character. We cannot too highly praise the Boston Public Library; it seemed to us the *ne plus ultra* of all similar concerns, and throws in the shade the New York and Phila. public libraries, and makes one wish he was a Bostonian to properly appreciate the pride that swells the bosoms of the denizens of the "Hub of the Universe." The "Coin Trade" in Boston, Lowell, Nashua, Manchester and Concord is on the increase, and new establishments dealing in Indian relics, bric a brac and other antiquities are constantly springing up. Besides the multiplication of coin, book and bric a brac dealers, public sales are tending constantly to supply the unusal demand for these luxuries. We had a pleasent interview with W. E. Woodward who was in the midst of his hive of coins and bric a brac, preparing sales for the season. We purchased a fine Washington signatnre and a fine 1800 dime of Woodward, and had a charming dinner thrown into the bargain, for *bargain* it was. Sold two Metric sets, 1879 in Boston for an advanced price over usual terms in consequence of the "true inwardness," of the issue of these peculiar coins having been published in Frossard's *Numisma* for Nov. Left Boston on Friday night by Fall River line, passed through New York stopped in New Jersey a short time and arrived home on Saturday prepared to offer our customers a fine lot of fresh pieces in the coin line, and with a determination to devote the winter to coin business at home, unless some collector at a distance calls for our agency in catalogning and selling, for a moderate commission, a cabinet of coins, books, paintings, relics, &c.

SOLD.

J. Chandler Roach of Atlantic City has sold his collection of U. S. and Colonial coins to J. Colvin Randall and the latter placed them in the coin sale of Mr. Harzfeld, which was successfully disposed of in New York, Nov. 26 and 27.

BALTIMORE COIN SALE AND BALTIMORE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

At last Baltimoreans are aroused to the fact that, in regard to numismatology, they have been in the dim distant background, as compared to Eastern and Western cities. We have repeatedly urged upon the collectors of Maryland, and Baltimore particularly, the feasibility of forming a numismatic society in their state. To Prof. Binion, Jamison, Massamore and others of Baltimore we have personally solicited influence in organizing a society, and also urged the inauguration once more of coin sales by auction. Although Dr. Massamore has announced a Coin sale for Dec. 1st. as an "entirely new" thing in Baltimore, we must beg to doubt this assertion until further investigation: believing that there were several sales of this kind years ago. All honor, however, to the spirit manifested by the Baltimore collectors, and may they realise their fondest anticipations in regard to their Society. The coming Massamore coin sale is not remarkable for the condition and rarity of its catalogued pieces, but there is enough of variety to make the sale interesting and attract the amateurs as buyers. We shall watch the result of these numismatic experiments with considerable interest, and report the same in future issues of our journals.

P. S. —Since writing the above we have received the following letter which speaks for itself

Baltimore, Nov. 13th, 1880.

Mess. Mason & Co.

We have organized a Society, and are in a very flourishing condition. At a meeting (the second,) held at my office last night, we elected eleven new members. Dr. Dalyrimple is our President, O H. Berg, Vice-President, your humble servant, Secretary, and Lennox Berkhead, Treasurer. I think we can increase our membership to 40 or 50 members. We have first class men in our society and I am very confident of its success. You have received Catalogues of my sale. I wish you would come on, if not give me a few bids, even if you dont want the coins. This is an experiment and I think dealers ought to encourage the enterprise. New Collectors are turning up since the formation of our Society. At our meeting last night it was quite amusing to see them (the members) poring over the catalogues. They all seemed to be delighted with the idea of having a sale in Baltimore.

Yours, in haste,
G. W. Massamore.

"RARE THUS."

A new term has been introduced in catalogues of coin sales, viz:—"Rare thus." Why *this* is *thus*, we must leave to the erudite pen of Bro. Harzfeld, who, we believe, is the originator of the new term, and who has been closely followed by Dr. Massamore, in the coming Baltimore coin sale This laconic explanation of rarity serves to reduce the long winded explanations hitherto considered necessary in terminating description of rare and fine pieces. "Rare thus" is as good in connection with coins, as with beef steaks.

THE COIN BOOM.

In every part of our loved country, the coin trade is booming and excepting the retirement of Kline and Cogan the once noted coin dealers, we have no offset to the flourishing business now prevailing.

RARE WASHINGTON LETTER.

The following letter, written by Gen. Washington, is now in possession of a gentleman in Conn. It exhibits the generous feelings entertained for the great and good "Father of his Country," by citizens of Baltimore at an early period in our history.

Mount-Vernon, June 8th, 1788,

Gentlemen.—Captain Barney has just arrived here in the miniature ship called the Federalist; and has done me the honour to offer that beautiful *curiosity* as a present to me, on your part.—I pray you, gentlemen, to accept the warmest expressions of sensibility for this *specimen* of American ingenuity, in which the exactitude of the proportions, the neatness of the workmanship, and the elegance of the decorations (which make your present fit to be preserved in a cabinet of curiosities) at the same time that they exhibit the skill and taste of the artists, demonstrate that Americans are not inferior to any people whatever in the use of mechanical instruments, and the art of ship building.

The unanimity of the agricultural state of Maryland in general, as well as of the commercial town of Baltimore in particular, expressed in their recent decision on the subject of a general government, will not (I persuade myself) be without its due efficacy on the minds of their neighbours, who, in many instances, are intimately connected, not only by the nature of their produce, but by the ties of blood and the habits of life.—Under these circumstances, I cannot entertain an idea that the voice of the Convention of this state, which is now in session, will be dissonant from that of her nearly allied sister, who is only separated by the Potomack.

You will permit me, gentlemen, to indulge my feelings in reiterating the heart-felt wish, that the happiness of this country may equal the desires of its sincerest friends; and that the patriotic towns of which you are inhabitants (in the prosperity of which I have always found myself strongly interested) may not only continue to increase in the same wonderful manner it has formerly done—but that its trade, manufactures and other resources of wealth, may be placed permanently in a more flourishing situation than they have hitherto been.

I am, with sentiments of respect,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient and most humble servant,
GEORGE WASHINGTON,

To William Smith, Esq, and the other gentlemen proprietors of the ship Federalist.

UNLIMITED ASSURANCE.

In one of the country towns of this State there is a paper, published quarterly, by one Steigerwalt, designated by the title of *The Coin Journal*. We have received various numbers of this paper, and upon the discovery of about a half a dozen articles that have appeared in our paper, and written by us, without the proper credit, we have had occasion to reprimand the editor in the last No. of the *Visitor*. Instead of humbly asking pardon and promising never again to commit so heinous an offence, here is what the editor cooly says, in the September issue of his journal:

"In answer to Mr. Mason, one would say that the only article which we used from the *Herald* was the one on the 'Rules of the U. S. Mint,' &c. Now we've got this cheeky editor right in a hole. We said the *Coin Journal* borrowed *half a dozen* articles written by us and here we wish to be exact and say that the number of articles in Steigerwalt's June issue, taken from our papers, was *five* instead of *six!* *First*.—"A new variety of 1797 Cent;" *Second*, "The Starred 1794 Cent;" *Third*, "Counterfeit Half Dollars;" *Fourth*, "U. S. Mint Dollars" and *Fifth*, "U. S. Gold Coins." Here we have *five* articles while the *sixth* article, confessed to by Steigerwalt, viz: "Rules of the U. S. Mint" which we abreviated from Col. Snowden's Circular, is left out of the question. In the very September No, of *The Coin Journal* containing the mis-statement, we have corrected, there appear three articles written and published in our papers and filched by the editor without credit of any kind, viz:—One is the article about Mr. B. T. Walton, and his 1853 half dollar, without arrows; another headed, "Coin Items" under which "The Leitzman Collection" is alluded to, and the third is, "Origin of the 1794 Starred Cent."

Down on your marrow bones, Stigey, and beg forgiveness; or pay us for this first class notice of your cool impudence in filching our brains, and denying the fact. Until you make the *amende honorable*, we shall in the future omit notice of your *Coin Journal* and strike it from the list of "exchanges;" in which case it will cost you a dollar subscription to get original matter for your paper.

NUMISMATIC PROFANITY.

Having, in various articles, defended the numismatic fraternity, as incapable of crime, and as possessing a high standard intelectually, we are grieved to find in the Oct. number of the *American Journal of Numismatics* (published in the high toned city of Boston) under the head of "Currency," the following profane incident: "A specimen of the *Notterdam Cent* was discovered the other day, and curiously enough was in the possession of a tramp who applied at one of the Station Houses for lodging." Now it seems to us there is no difference in "swears" whether *scented* with polite language to make them pass *current*, buried under a big pile of ingenious "think," or loaded with vindictive slung shot, hair standing, soul harrowing phraseology—Notterdam Cent," indeed! one might as well say, "Notterdam" difference, one "swear" is equal to one "curse," look at it as we will; When we are in Rome, we should do as the *Romans* do; but when we are in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Notterdam—man should be careful in his utterances, else his emphatic expression of terminating syllables may forever *dam* his fondest hopes and terminate his traveling pleasures. We trust the "Notterdam" sentiment will not prevail among numismatists and call upon the editors of the Boston *A. N. Journal* to repudiate profanity, come in what shape it may. Our readers readily perceive how much difference there is numismatically and religiously between Amsterdam, Rotterdam and the *plain damn* used in the Boston Journal, viz: "Notterdam Cent!"

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

S. P., Norwich.—Your silver piece of James II has a thistle on reverse—not a "pineapple" as you supposed; nor is it a "Bermuda piece," but an English coin of 1689.

L. B., New York.—We would buy the collection; but the enormous sum of ten thousand dollars is a pretty steep price for a Cabinet, not up to the standard of Mickley's famous Collection sold in your city, 1867.

J. P. S., Nevada.—Have laid a plan to catch the miscreant taking our letters and appropriating contents. Will duplicate all coins lost in mails, when not registered.

Bruce Perley.—For a selling price list consult any dealer, for a buying price list our Catalogue is the only copy-righted one published that gives prices paid for all American coins, &c. Have entered your name for one year and sent 1st. No. of vol. II of the *Herald*.

W. E., Boston.—The Coin Price Catalogue dated 1860, you have, is the one we published when our coin store was at 451 North 2d. Street, this City. Dr. Dickenson, Davis, Fewsmith, Warner, Jenks, Kline, Idler and others of the old time collectors have had and perhaps now have a copy of the Catalogue, the first priced buying catalogue issued in the U. S.

B. R. S., New York.—Some doubts having been expressed as to Mason & Co., being the oldest dealers in coins in the U. S., we will be thankful for the name of party who antidates Mason & Co., now in Coin business.

COIN BUSINESS DECLINED.

A. C. Kline, who with Edward Cogan and E. Mason, Jr. formed the three coin dealers in 1860, in this city, has "stepped down and out" and his well known shop on 13th street, is closed. Alas for "Wm. John," alias "A. C. K.," who might have been at the *head* and *front*, if—concluded in our next.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION

OF THE SILVER AND COPPER COLONIAL AND UNITED STATES COINS IN THE UNITED STATES MINT CABINET AT PHILADELPHIA, 1879.

BY E. M. JR.

(*Continued from September Number.*)

U. S. COPPER CENTS.

1793 Chain, uncirculated
1793 Wreath, twig inclines to right, unc'd.
1793 Ditto, (reverse side.)
1793 Liberty Cap, fine.
1794 Head of '93, unc'd.
1794 Same, (reverse side.)
1795 Medium Planchet, unusual broad milling sharp and unc'd.
1796 Fillet Head, very fine.
1796 Lib. Cap, very fine.
1797 Cracked Die, very fine.
1798 Cracked Die, dark, uncirculated.
1799 Perfect Date, very poor.
1800 Perfect Date, fine.
1801 $\frac{1}{100}$ Variety, good.
1802 " " very fine
1803 " " " "
1804 Perfect Planchet, fine
1805 Good.
1806 "
1807 "
1808 "
1809 Nearly fine.
1810 Broad Date, fine.
1811 Perfect Date, fine.
1812 Very fine.
1813 " "
1814 Plain 1, unc'd.
1816 Broken Die, fine.
1817 Close Date, unc'd.
1817 15 stars, very fine.
1818 Cracked Die, fine.
1819 Small Date, unc'd.
1820 to '23 inc. Proofs.
1824 Fine.
1825 Good.
1826 "
1827 Proof.
1828 "
1829 Uncirculated.
1830 Proof.
1831 Bronzed, unc'd.
1832 to '36 inc. Proofs.
1837, '38 Uncirculated.
1839 Silly Head, unc'd.
1840 Small Date, unc'd.
1841 to 48 inc., Proofs.
1850 '51, '52 Uncirculated.
1853 Uncirculated.
1854 Proof.
1855 Slanting Date, proof
1856 Uncirculated.
1857 Small Date, Proof.

(*To be continued.*)

REVIEWS.

Frossard's Numisma (Bi Monthly) Nov.—"Church Tokens," "Interview between Col. Snowden of the Mint and S. K. Harzfeld," and "Coin Sales" have absorbed the November number of *Numisma*. Frossard is getting careless with his journal, judging by the superabundance of errors we find in the current number. On the first page J. Colvin Randall's name is rendered "J. Olvin Randall" John C. Schayer is twisted into "John C. Sheaver," Jeremiah Colburn's front name is abreviated to "Jeremih," *numismatic*, in A. B. Carman's advertisement, is given with a superabundance of little "i"s in W. E. Woodward's adv't, we find catalogue is printed "Ctalogue" and so on *ad infin.* Our contemporary presents a *very fair* account of the sale of the coins in the Smith Cabinet, Part 1, when he gives his readers to understand that the sale was "tedious and uninteresting," while in fact, he was not present at the sale of either part first, or second, and although he received, "Express paid," one hundred and fifty catalogues, we have yet to learn that he bought one single lot in either sale, or was represented by any one who purchased for him. We supposed, from the frequent outbursts of merriment, and the earnest competition of buyers, that the sale wasn't anybody's funeral or prayer meeting! However, as we have not attended Frossard's sales, we cannot expect him at our offerings, and only regret he should throw a wet blanket on a brother dealer's efforts to compete with the *classical* branch of the trade. A supplement accompanies the November number of Numisma and contains, editorially, a notice of the death in New York of Charles I. Bushnell, (not Chas. J. Bushnell as printed in *Numisma*) the noted, respected and able numismatist, with whom we have spent some pleasant hours, and whose decease will leave a blank on the pages of America's living scientific numismatists, not easily filled.

Roxbury, November 4, 1880.

E. Mason, Jr.

Dear Sir.—My next sale will be the Collection of R. W. Mercer, of Cincinnati, it will take place early in December, in New York or Boston, am not quite sure which—a fine collection containing a good many excellent coins.

This sale will be followed the first week in January by that of the Greek, Roman and Foreign Coins of Mr. Jenks, with which you are familiar. Mr Jenks' coins in these departments are wonderfully fine and many pieces are of great rarity and value. As soon as I can possibly make the Catalogue, I shall sell in New York the Prehistoric and modern Indian and bric-a-brac collection of Dr. Hitchcock, formerly of Tucson, Arizona, now of Omaha—very likely this sale will occur the same week as the Jenks' sale.

Yours Truly,
W. E. W.

[Answer.—Hope to see you in a few days, and discuss coming coin sales, &c.—Editor.]

Mason & Co.

I see by your catalogue that dimes of 1830 unworn are worth 25 cents. The one I have is but little worn, as you can judge from impression. Do you consider coins with holes, worn coins. When they are new and bright otherwise?

Address,
Miss Kitty Casnell,
102 Jackson Street, Atlanta, Ga.

[Answer.—Have answered by mail in detail, but omitted to say that uncirculated coins of common dates pierced are not worth premium.—Editor.]

Philadelphia, September 30th, 1880.

Gents.—The halves of the O. Mint for 1841 and 1842 are smaller than the coinage of the Philadelphia Mint of '43 and upwards and of the 1840 half, Philadelphia Mint.

Yours Truly,
WM. H. CASTLE.

(You are right.—Editor.)

ON HAND AND FOR SALE. (December.)

U. S. COPPER COINS, &c.

1793 Cents, fair to fine,	$1.50 to	$10.00
1794 " " " "	.10 "	2.00
1795 " " " "	.15 "	3.00
1796 " " " "	.15 "	3.00
1797 " " " "	.10 "	2.00
1798 " " " "	.05 "	1.00
1799 " poor to good,	2.50 "	6.00
1799 " fine,		25.00
1800, '1, '2, '3, '7, '10, '12, good, each,		.10
1805, '6, '8, '11, '13, fair to fine,	.15 "	2.00
1801 Fair to good,	2.00 "	6.00
1809 " " "	.50 "	1.50
1809 Fine		3.50
1821, '23, '57, good to fine,	.10 "	1.00
All other dates, " " "	.05 "	.50
1793 Half Cents, fair, to fine,	1.00 "	6.00
1794 " " " " "	.25 "	2.00
1795, '97, Half Cents, fair to fine,	.25 "	2.00
1795 " " lettered edge, good,		.75
1796 " " poor,		6.00
1800 " " fair to good,	.10 "	.25
1802 " " " " "	1.00 "	2.00
1803, '4, '9, " " " " fine,	.03 "	.15
1805, '6, '7, '8, '10. half cents, fair to fine,	.10 "	.35
1811 " " " " "	.50 "	3.00
1825, '6, '8, '9, '33; '4, '5, half cents, fine,	.5 "	.10
1831 and 36, Solid copper copies, proofs,	each	2.00
1840 to 1849, " " " proofs	"	2.00
1849, '56, half cents, uncirculated,	"	.50
1849, '56, " " very fine,	"	.25
1849, '56, " " " good,	"	.15
1850, '1, '3, '4, '5, '7, half cents, fine to unc'd,	5c to	.15
1852 Half cents, solid copper copies, proof,		2.00
Splendid electrotypes of all rare half cents,	each	.25
" " " " " " cents,	"	.25
Genuine half cents, Common dates per 100,	"	3.00

COLONIAL COPPER COINS, &c.

New Jersey, 25 varieties. fair to good,		2.00
" " mixed lot of 100 fair to good,		5.00
Connecticut, 10 varieties, fair to good,		.50
" 100 mixed, " " "		5.00
" V't., Mass., 100 mixed, fair to good,		6.00
New Jersey, "Pluribs" good,		1.00
Immunis Columbia. solid copper copy,		1.00
" " Elec., copy,		.20
New York cents 1787, fair to good,	.25 to	2.00
" " " 1794, '5, good to fine,	.50 "	1.00
Mass. Cents 1787, '8, " " "	.35 "	1.00
" Half Cents 1787, '8, " " "	1.75 "	2.75
Virginia Cents 1773, fair to fine	.15 "	.75
" " " uncirculated,		1.50
Kittaning, thick, (Indian) Medal	size 26,	1.00
B. Franklin, (Boston) "	" 28,	.75
Adam Eckfeld, (fine) "	" 32,	.75
Franklin & Montyon, (very fine) Medal,	" 26,	.50
Washington, good, (Westwood,) rare.	Size 26,	.75
" fair variety, rare, Medal	" 24,	1.00
Double bust proof Marriage Medal,	" 25,	1.00
Oxford Cathedral proof, Medal,	" 38,	.75
Beautiful Merit Medal proof,	" 24,	.50
Ancient Medal, Edward III, good,	" 24,	.75
" " " I, "	" 24,	.75
" " Henry VII, "	" 24,	.75
Cassini " (Italian) fine	" 26,	.50
La Fayette " (French) "	" 30,	.75
Alexander, 1814 (Russian) fine,	" 26,	.50
Prussian Medal, 1757 (battle) good	" 32,	.25
Washington Head Quarters, Cop. proof,	" 18,	.20
Same proof (10 different varieties) each,	" 18,	.20
Fine gold plated Coin, Geo. IV, for charm	" 16,	.50
" " " " Nap. III, "	" 20,	.50
7 large cop. proof shells of rare Medals, each,		.25
Cogan's silver card proof Phila. 1860, size 14,		.75
Same in Copper and brass, each		.15
U. S. Centennial proof medal, silver, size 24,		1.50
Queen Anna, Silver Medal, (from a private die, very rare, fine, size 22,)		2.00
One Thaler, Silver Medal, Shooting Festival, 1865, proof.		1.00
Silver Medal, 3 Muses, Tree and Vine, fine, size 22, weighs 70 cents,		1.00
Large thick silver, U. S. Mint (Washington) size 21,		1.00

Early American Newspapers. &c.

FOR SALE.—Single copies, different dates of original Newspapers, containing odd and interesting reading matter and advertisements. All clean and in good condition.

Connecticut Weekly Journal, 1788—each 25c.
Phila. Packet and Daily Advertiser, 1787 } each 25c.
Six copies, (different numbers,) $1.00

Priced Catalogues of Smith's Coin Cabinet, part 1st and 2d, sold Oct. 5th, 6th, 7th, and 19th, 20th and 21st, , 75c each.

Address,

MASON & CO.

143 North Tenth Street, Phila.

WANTED.—At good prices, 1804 and 1838 Half Dollars as pictured in this advertisement.

LOOK and READ.

As there seems to be a belief extant that there are 1804 U. S. half dollars, we will pay fifty dollars each for same if discovered, and five dollars each for 1838 half dollars, having the letter "O" between date and bust.

MASON & CO., 143 N. 10th Street, Philadelphia.